

Applicant(s) : PAWELEK, et al.
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Amendments to the claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Currently amended) A method for reducing volume or inhibiting growth of a solid tumor cancer, comprising: administering to a patient having a solid tumor, [[a]] an attenuated, superinfective, tumor specific *Escherichia coli* genetically engineered to express a suicide gene, whereby said *Escherichia coli* is an auxotrophic mutant, and wherein said suicide gene is encoded by the open reading frame of the insert of a plasmid selected from the group consisting of pTK-Sec3, pCD-Sec1, and pSP-SAD4-5.
2. (Canceled)
3. (Currently amended) The method according to claim [[2]] 1, wherein the attenuated, tumor specific *E. coli* expresses an altered lipid A molecule.
4. (Currently amended) The method according to claim [[2]] 1, wherein the attenuated, tumor specific *E. coli* induces TNF- α expression in monocytes or macrophages from about 1 to about 75 percent compared to non-attenuated microorganisms.
5. (Original) The method according to claim 1, wherein the tumor specific *E. coli* is a single colony clone of an isolated population of *E. coli* microorganisms.

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6. (Currently amended) The method accordingly to claim 1, wherein the tumor specific ~~microorganism~~ Escherichia coli is an enteroinvasive *E. coli* ~~genetically engineered to express a suicide gene~~.
7. (Canceled)
8. (Original) The method according to claim 1 wherein the tumor specific *E. coli* expresses a suicide gene selected from the group consisting of p450 oxidoreductase, HSV thymidine kinase, *E. coli* cytosine deaminase, carboxypeptidase G2, β -glucuronidase, penicillin-V-amidase, penicillin-G-amidase, β -lactamase, β -glucosidase, nitroreductase and carboxypeptidase A.
9. (Canceled)
10. (Original) The method according to claim 1 wherein the *E. coli* expresses the suicide gene under control of a constitutive promoter, an inducible promoter, or a tumor cell specific promoter.
11. (Canceled)
12. (Canceled)

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13. (Canceled)